470
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EWOKS
THE BATTLE FOR ENDOR™
Story and photos from the original Lucasfilm Ltd. Production.

EWOKS
THE BATTLE FOR ENDOR™

Based on an original story by George Lucas.

This is the story of EWOKS: THE BATTLE FOR ENDOR. You can read along with me in your book. You will know it is time to turn the page when you hear the chimes ring like this...

LET'S BEGIN NOW:

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It was morning on the forest moon of Endor where the Ewoks lived. Wicket, the little Ewok, was strolling through the woods with Cindel, a girl whose family's Star Cruiser had crashed there several months before. "Cindel leave soon?"

"I guess so. My father's almost finished fixing our ship. Pretty soon we'll have to say goodbye."

"Good…bye? Not good."

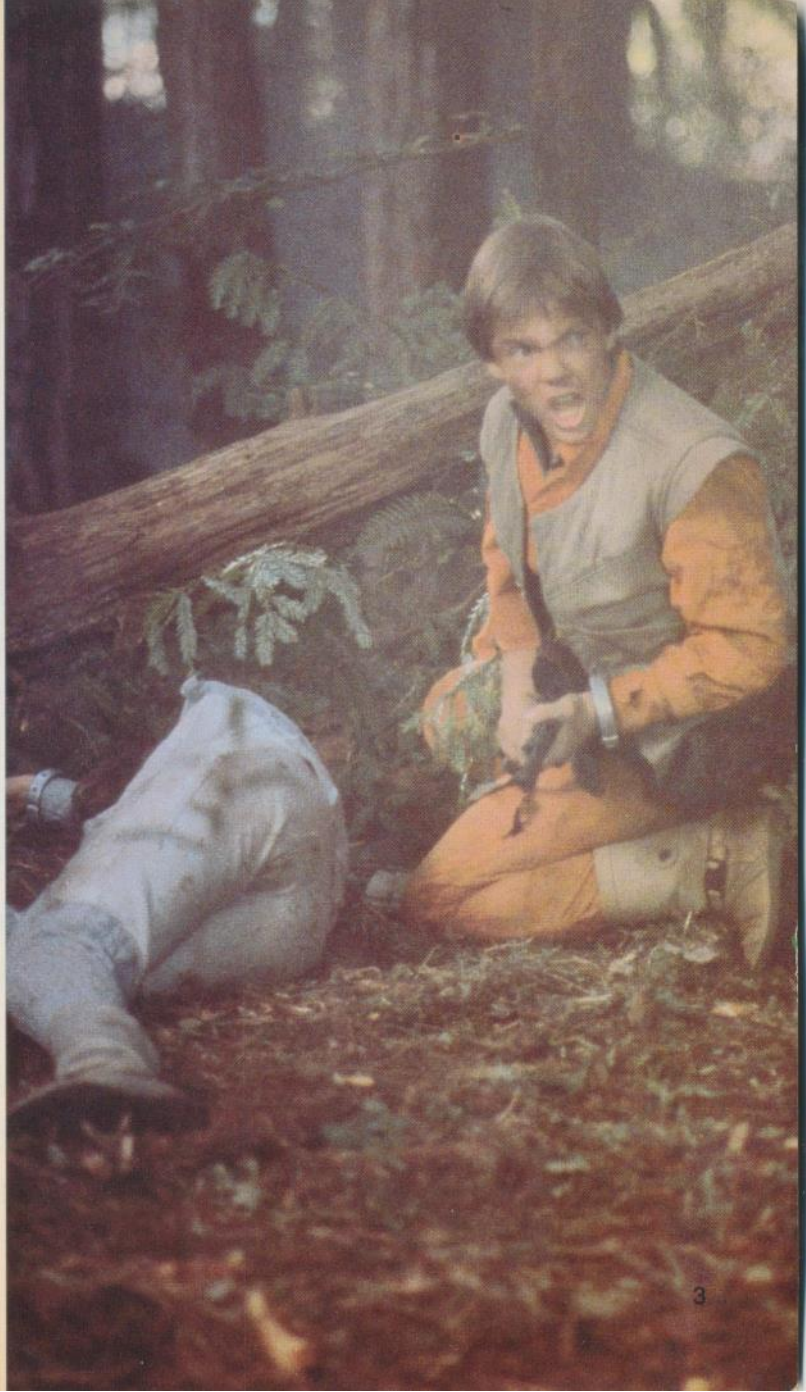
Before Cindel could reply, Wicket stopped and sniffed the air. "Shhh...danger!"

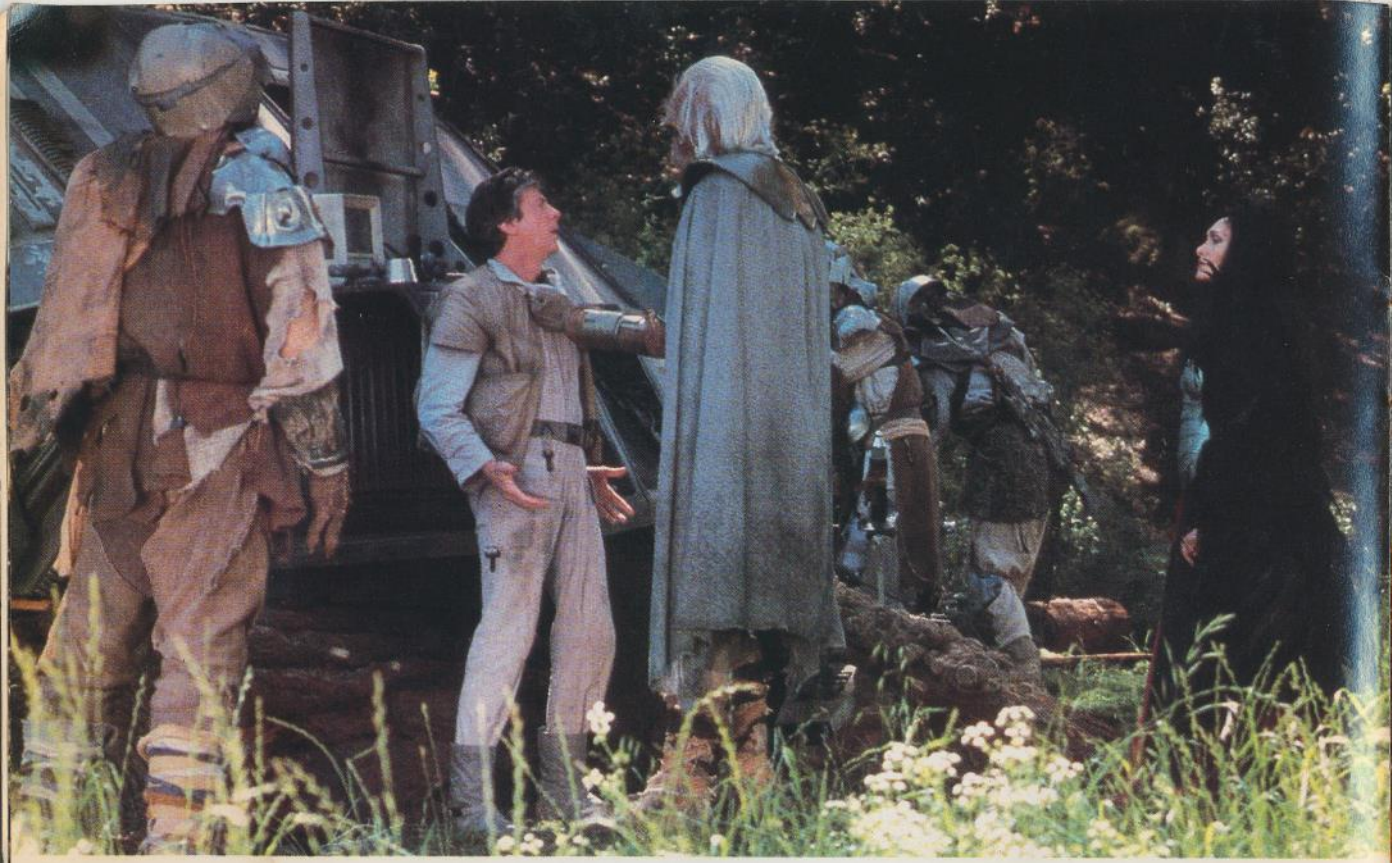
He and Cindel ran to a hill overlooking the Ewok village. Cindel gasped. "The village—it's being attacked!" Below them, Marauders seven feet tall strode among the frightened Ewoks, burning huts and taking prisoners.

Wicket scrambled down the hill. Cindel followed, looking for her mother and brother. "Mommy? Mace? Where are you?"

Then she saw them. Her mother lay injured next to a log. Beside her, Mace was firing at the Marauders. But as Cindel hurried toward them, there was an explosion. The log and everything around it were destroyed.

Stunned, Cindel ran into the forest to find her father. "Daddy, Daddy!"





Cindel's father, Jeremitt Towani, was repairing the family Star Cruiser in a nearby meadow. Suddenly Marauders burst from the forest and surrounded him! Terak, the Marauder king, approached Jeremitt with the evil witch Charal beside him. "I know you're the keeper of the power. Give it to me…now!" When Jeremitt refused, the Marauders tore apart the control panel and found a small metal unit pulsing with light.

Just then Cindel emerged from the forest.

"Cindel, go back!" Dodging laser fire, Jeremitt dashed toward his daughter. He was hit, then stumbled into the woods with Cindel. Watching them, Charal rubbed a strange ring on her finger. In the blink of an eye, she changed into a raven and flew after them.

Hidden among the trees, Cindel threw her arms around her injured father. "Daddy, they killed Mommy and Mace."

Jeremitt winced with pain. "Cindel, remember the story about the little bird who was blown from his nest during a rainstorm? Fly like the little bird and go to Wicket. He'll help you find your way home."

"But I want to stay with you, Daddy."

"I'll always be with you. Now go, please." As she ran away, the Marauders fired. Jeremitt slumped to the ground.

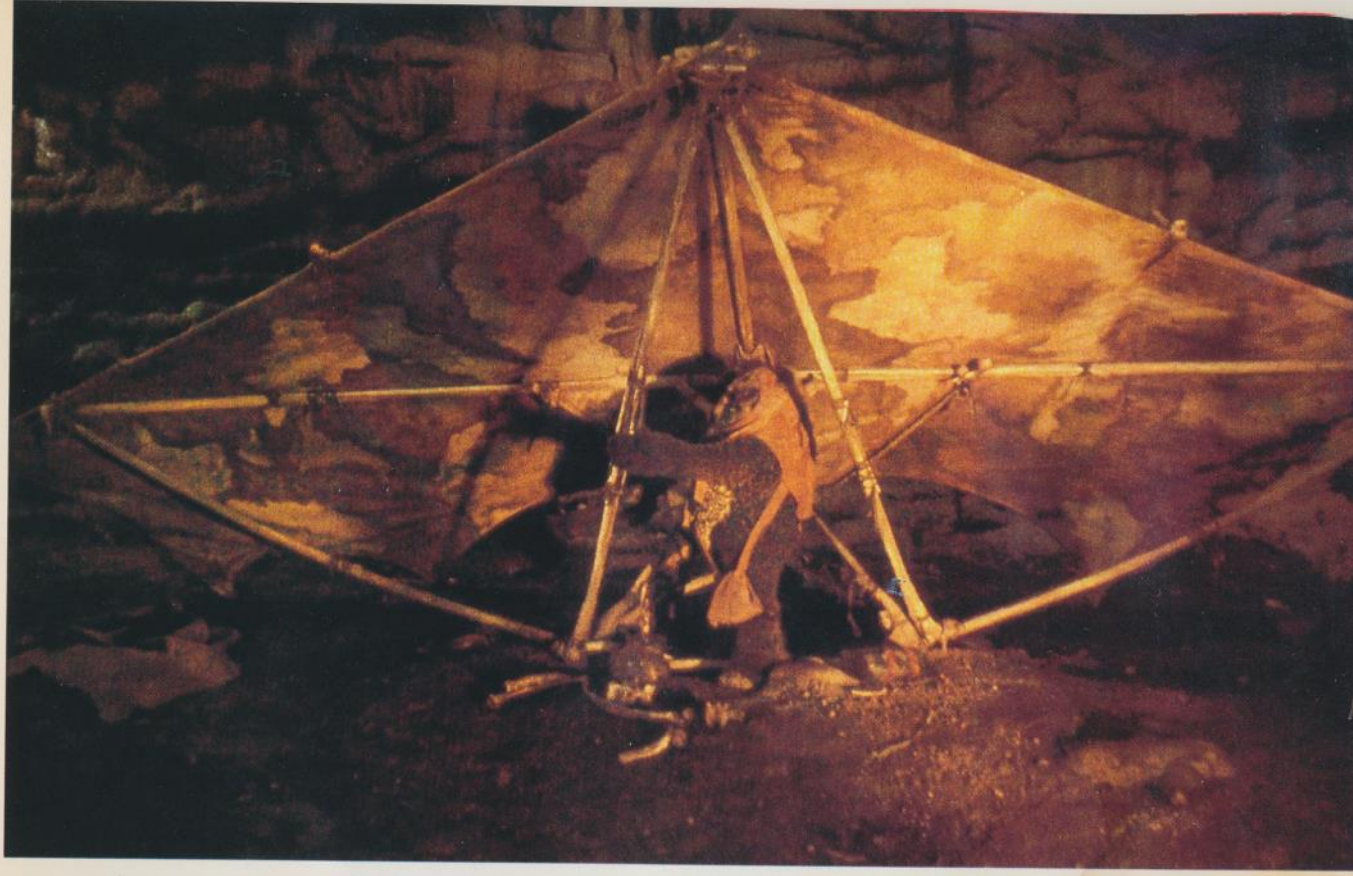
The raven saw Cindel and flew toward her. A moment later Cindel slammed into Charal. "There's no escape for you, my little one. Now only you can tell us the secret of the power."

Cindel was locked in a cage wagon with Wicket and his friends. Trying to escape, the Ewoks pulled up a floorboard but couldn't fit through.

Cindel spoke up. "Wicket and I are small — let us try." They squeezed through and ran into the woods.

Cindel pointed to a hillside cave. "Let's hide there!" As they climbed inside, two Marauders saw them and fired, knocking loose a big rock. Boulders thundered down, burying the Marauders and trapping Cindel and Wicket in the cave.

The two friends searched for a way out. "Look, Wicket—daylight!" They ran to the opening and found themselves atop a sheer cliff. Wicket, seeing bones and animal hides nearby, began weaving them together to form a crude hang glider.



As Wicket finished, Cindel gasped. "Those rocks next to you—they're moving. Wicket, it's a dragon!" Using a spear-like bone, Wicket tried to protect Cindel. But the dragon grabbed her in its claws and flew out of the cave!

Following in his hang glider, Wicket swooped down next to the dragon. He leaned out, took hold of Cindel, and snatched her from the dragon's claws. Then he guided his craft to the safety of the woods.

Cindel and Wicket spent the night in a hollow tree trunk. The next morning a small, furry creature named Teek awakened them. Cindel thought he might be able to help. "Do you know where there's food?" Darting ahead, the creature led them to a small cottage.

Following the creature through the door, Cindel glanced around. "I like this place. Let's stay for awhile."

Just as they were settling in, the door burst open, and a man with a white beard stood glaring at their furry friend. "Teek, I told you to keep strangers away from here! They'd better be gone by the time I count to ten. One…two…"

Cindel took Wicket's hand, and they left the cottage.

That evening as the two friends huddled by a fire, the old man ran from the cottage and poured water on the flames. "What are you trying to do? Burn down the forest?"

Cindel shivered. "It's cold. And I was afraid."

The man frowned at her. "Any fool knows the proper place for a fire is in a fireplace. Come back inside!"

Noa, the old man, agreed to let them stay if they helped around the house. Soon Cindel noticed something very strange. "Every morning, Noa goes off and doesn't come back until sunset. Wicket, let's find out where he goes!"

They followed him to a huge metal object covered with vines. It was a Star Cruiser! As Cindel climbed the steps, Noa saw her. "You should never have come here! No one knows about this!"

Grumbling, Noa took Cindel and Wicket back to the cottage, where he told them his story. "It seems like a lifetime since Captain Salak and I crashed here. Our power unit was broken, so Salak went off to search for another one. He never returned. Now I'm stuck here, and I'll probably never get home."

Cindel rested her head on his shoulder. "I'm stuck too, Noa. Maybe someday we can go home together."

After dinner that night, Noa showed Cindel a wooden flute he'd brought from home. She thought back to what he had told her that afternoon. "Noa, is Captain Salak dead?"

"I think so. He must be."

"My family's dead, too. They're gone forever."

"No, Cindel, they're still with you—here." Noa tapped his heart. "Remember what they said and did, and they'll always live in your memories."

Cindel awoke the next morning to the sound of a familiar voice singing. "Mommy? Is that you?"

Following the voice into the forest, she saw a beautiful young woman in a white robe. Beside her stood a handsome white horse. "Come to me, my little one." As Cindel approached, the white robe suddenly turned black, and the lovely smile became an evil grin. It was Charal the witch. "I told you there'd be no escape!"

Charal took her to King Terak's castle, where Terak showed Cindel the power unit from her father's Star Cruiser. "Now use your magic to bring the power to life."

"But I can't. It's just a part from a Star Cruiser."

"Take the power with you and make it work. If you don't, you and the Ewoks will be doomed!" He pulled the ring off Charal's finger. "And you, witch, will die with them! Throw them in the dungeon with the Ewoks!"

Meanwhile Noa, Wicket, and Teek had followed Cindel's trail. Noa threw a rope over the castle wall. "Okay, you two, up and over. I'm right behind you." Inside, they crept down to the dungeon, where Teek stole the keys and freed their friends.

Cindel gave Noa the glowing power unit. Noa's eyes opened wide. "This is the part I need for my ship!"

From the throne room, Terak heard noises below. "Guards, come with me to the dungeon!"

By the time the Marauders reached the dungeon, the prisoners were gone. Terak grabbed Charal. "You helped them escape! For that you'll die."

"Wait, Terak! I heard them say there's another ship. If you let me fly after them, they'll lead me to it."

Terak slipped Charal's ring onto her finger, changing her into a raven. Then he tied the ring to a cord around his neck. "Find the power. Then I'll let you have the ring back."

Guided by the raven, Terak's soldiers followed the Ewoks to Noa's Star Cruiser. Noa placed the power unit in the control panel. "This should activate the weapons!" The panel sputtered and came to life. The ship's guns roared.

Fighting off a band of Marauders, Cindel and the Ewoks ran to the ship. The Ewoks made it inside. But when they looked around, Cindel was gone!

Noa and the Ewoks peered out and saw Terak holding her. "Old man, I have the child. And you have something of mine!"

Noa came out clutching the power unit. "Harm the girl and you'll get nothing. Release her and I'll fight you for the power."

Terak let Cindel go, and she ran to Noa. The Marauder king stepped forward. "The power—give it to me."

"If you want it, you'll have to take it!" Noa charged straight at Terak!

Noa hit Terak with his walking stick, but the king recovered quickly. Swinging his sword in a tremendous arc, Terak broke the stick in two. "You're finished, old man."

Wicket dug into his pouch, found a rock, and placed it in a sling. He whirled it around his head and sent it flying toward Terak. It struck the ring that hung from Terak's neck, smashing it and driving the pieces deep into his chest.

Terak staggered and fell. As Noa and the others stared in amazement, the Marauder king writhed, twitched weakly, and turned to stone.

Stunned by the loss of their leader, the Marauders fled into the woods. The raven rose into the air and flew away, cawing sadly. Now it could never change back.

At last Cindel and Noa could go home. As the Ewoks gathered around the Star Cruiser, Cindel hugged Wicket. "You're my best friend. I'll be back."

Noa said goodbye to Teek, then took Cindel's hand. "It's time to go." They climbed into the Star Cruiser.

Wicket and Teek stood together and watched as the ship rose through the trees and streaked across the sky.

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